

Of Interest to Women

INDIVIDUAL MODES

Would Add to Interest of Fashionable Assemblies.

Again and again have visitors from afar, either from conviction or politeness, declared American women to be the best dressed in the world, but the recipients of these flattery have not thereby been altogether deprived of the power of self-judgment. From among their own number there occasionally arises a critic, the burthen of whose song is that American women

at the opera this week in the form of a cap of draped silver net bordered with velvet ribbon in a pretty blue that matched the gown with which it was worn.

Variety is the spice of life, and why it should be thought necessary for the heads of all women to look the same any more than for the flowers of the field to be all of the same shape and color it is hard to see.

HONEST CLOTHING TESTS

Many Adulterations Described at Child Welfare Exhibit.

An "honest clothing act" is threatening to climb up on the statute books beside the pure food law. It took the first step yes-



FIGURE 1—EVENING GOWN OF FINE FRENCH LAWN, EMBROIDERED WITH SILK AND BEADS. CERISE GIRDLE SET WITH JEWELS. SLEEVES AND TRAIN EDGED WITH FUR.

FIGURE 2—GOWN CONSISTING OF A SHEATH OF DARK VIOLET VELVET AND TUNIC OF GRAY CHIFFON, EMBROIDERED IN SILK AND STEEL BEADS. PINWHEEL KNOT OF VIOLET VELVET.

display a lamentable lack of individuality in their dress.

Persons who have never seen the reason for this accusation might be convinced by a careful study of any large ensemble of fashionable women in this city, even though they did not feel compelled to admit that other countries could claim any superiority in this respect. It scarcely need be denied, for instance, that if the opera there is a certain monotony in the array of heads adorned, as most of us are present, whatever may be in store for the future, with pompadours and coifs. The pompadours may be big or little and the puffs are not always in the same position, but they produce a general similarity of form, and it is hardly possible for the looks that come from the shop to have the color and gloss of well-groomed hair growing on the native heath. So do the bands that are now the generally accepted ornaments for the coiffure seem to brighten the picture as a whole. More is accomplished in this way by the ladies who parts her tresses in the centre and draws them back loosely into a coil on her neck, wearing in with them a strand of delicate green leaves as a darning tool. Such coiffures as this may be seen with others equally unusual, and most refreshing they are to the faded eye.

These caps have not met with great favor as yet, but once in a while a woman finds an effective one and wears it to the joy of all beholders. One pleasant little spot of color in a sea of heads was seen

yesterday afternoon at the Child Welfare Exhibit, when Francis A. Adams, a textile expert, told the women how cloths were adulterated by the manufacturers.

"You can depend upon it," he said, "that if a dealer advertises 'all wool' at half the price wool brings in the reputable houses there is something wrong. Probably it is mostly cotton, as was the case with the samples we saw in our exhibit downstairs, which were analyzed by a chemist. Acid eats away wool. If a sample is 'all wool' there will be nothing left when the chemicals get through. In most of those samples you will see there is a great bunch of fiber, which was the cotton in those all wool suitings."

"But your dealer may guarantee the cloth. You wear it a few days, and it begins to look rusty. You take it to a chemist and he proves that it was really all wool, but there are all grades of 'all wool'." There is even a cold storage product old stuff which has been kept so long that it is bad, like eggs. Or your bargain may turn out to be that unique American product known as shoddy, which is made from wool, but wool carpet rags and anything the ragpicker gathers up. It has been dyed two or three times, so that it cannot take a fast color again, and it has been worn out so many times already that, of course, it has no wearing quality any more.

Besides, it has no warmth. It may be as thin as cardboard, but the wind goes right through it.

"There ought to be a law forbidding the

manufacture of such a material. You women ought to insist on one."

"Things are almost as bad on the silk counter, too. Your dealer will swear a great oath that 'there is absolutely no cotton in this, madam,' and 'absolutely no linen either,' but after you wear your new silk dress a few times it cracks along the seams. That is because it is loaded." The threads have been dipped in a solution of tin, which makes the heavy, lustrous silk. You ask the sales girl next time you buy silk, 'Is it loaded?' and ten to one she'll say, 'Well, here is something else perhaps you would like better, madam.'

After this exposé of bargain fabrics the floor was given over to Miss Anita M. Earl, of the New York Training School for Teachers, who told the mothers how to test cotton goods for their children's dresses.

"Get a sample," she advised. "Hang it in the sun, wash it, and see if either fades it much. Press it with your thumb to see if it tears apart easily. A corded fabric will pull apart easier than one where the threads are all alike, so beware of dimities. Cheap muslins are made stiff with starch; wet them and see if the gloss does not disappear. However good the material in a ready-made dress, it will not wear so well as one made at home; so do your own sewing when you can."

Miss Cleo Murland, of the Manhattan Trade School for Girls, talked about the importance of teaching working girls how to dress economically by spending wisely and taking good care of their clothes.

Mrs. Mary S. Rose, of Teachers College, then told the women how to spend on food the money they saved on dress and warned them not to stint the children's diet, for nourishment denied when one is young can never be made up in later life.

To-day the conference will be upon "Home Life," with special reference to making the New York home beautiful. Children will demonstrate methods of slipping geraniums.

HOTELS AND HOTEL SERVICES

RESORTS

NORTH CAROLINA

RESORTS

NORTH CAROLINA

TIME TABLES

S. S. KAISERIN AUG. 19.
(25,000 TONS)

Leaves New York Feb. 11, 10 A. M.

TIME TABLES

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E U R O P E

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*By new 15,000 ton steamers equipped with all modern safety appliances, electric baths, Gymnasium, swimming pool, etc.

S. S. CANTERBURY — Jan. 28, 11 A. M.

HAMMERSMITH — Jan. 28, 11 A. M.

HAMBURG — Jan. 28, 11 A. M.

BRITANNIA — Jan.